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SPECIES OF THE GENUS CYPRAEA FROM CLIPPERTON ISLAND

by

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(Plate 22)

The composition of the molluskan fauna of Clipperton Island is remarkable for its mixture of West American and Indo-Pacific elements.

In a recent number of this quarterly, Allison (1959) discussed the habitat of the species of Conus found living on this atoll. Empty shells of three additional species, Conus brunneus Wood, C. gradatus Mawe, and C. tessulatus Born also have been taken there. The present paper is based primarily upon material collected during Scripps Institution of Oceanography Expeditions of 1956 and 1958 to Clipperton Island.

The species of Cypraea are a colorful and conspicuous element of the shallow water fauna in tropical waters. Twelve species and subspecies are here listed from Clipperton Island: the identification of two is doubtful and the identification of one species recorded earlier from the island may be open to question. All are Indo-Pacific species except two, Cypraea albuginosa and C. isabella mexicana, which live in tropical west American waters.

We wish to acknowledge the aid of

Mr. Ray Summers who checked the identifications of the species which follow:

Cypraea albuginosa Gray. Live specimens rare, taken at edge of reef-flat; fresh shells from reef-flat and among coral debris to a depth of 10 meters; beachworn shells on all beaches but especially common on north and west sides of the island where shells of C. isabella mexicana are relatively uncommon.

Cypraea arenosa Linnaeus. A single worn specimen from the beach on the north side of the island.

Cypraea caput-serpentis Linnaeus. Fresh shells from the beach on the north side of the island.

Cypraea depressa Gray. Worn shells from the beach.

Cypraea helvola Linnaeus. Worn shells fairly common on the beach on the north and west sides of the island.

Cypraea isabella Linnaeus. Recorded from Clipperton Island by Hertlein and Emerson (1953). Identified as C. isabella mexicana by R. Summers (oral communication).

Cypraea isabella mexicana Stearns.

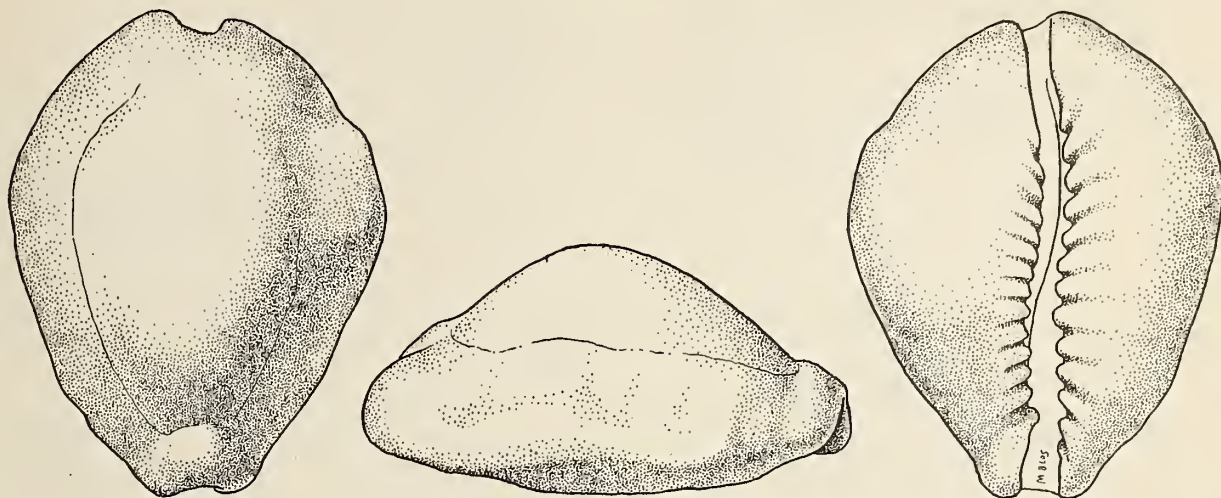


Figure 1. *Cypraea moneta* Linnaeus; Hypotype 37726, Univ. Calif. Mus.
Paleon. Type Coll., Loc. B-4237. Clipperton Island, living. x 2



Figure 2. *Cypraea moneta* Linnaeus. Hypotype 37727, Univ. Calif. Mus.
Paleon. Type Coll., Loc. B-6098. Clipperton Lagoon, dead. x 2